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Lands in Oklahoma Territory

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 17, 1894.—Ordered to be printed.

MR. MARTIN, from the Committee on Public Lands, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 5065.]

The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred House bill No. 5065, "An act to ratify the reservation of certain lands made for the benefit of Oklahoma Territory, and for other purposes," have had the same under consideration and we recommend that the bill be amended as follows, to wit:

Strike out all after the last "and" in the twelfth line of the said act and insert as follows:

All of said lands and all of the school lands in said Territory may be leased under such laws and regulations as may be hereafter prescribed by the legislature of said Territory; but until such legislative action the governor, secretary of the Territory, and superintendent of public instruction shall constitute a board for the leasing of said lands under the rules and regulations heretofore prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, for the respective purposes for which the said reservations were made, except that it shall not be necessary to submit said leases to the Secretary of the Interior for his approval; and all necessary expenses and costs incurred in the leasing, management, and protection of said lands and leases may be paid out of the proceeds derived from such leases.

And as amended your committee recommend its passage.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, April 9, 1894.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose a copy of a letter from the Commissioner of the Land Office upon H. R. 5065.

The views presented by the Commissioner meet with my approval.

Respectfully,

HOKE SMITH,
Secretary.

Hon. JOHN MARTIN,
U. S. Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., April 9, 1894.

SIR: I have had my attention called to a proposed amendment to H. R. 5065, entitled "An act to ratify the reservation of certain lands made for the benefit of Oklahoma Territory, and for other purposes," submitted by the Hon. John Martin, U. S. Senate, as follows, viz:

Strike out all after the last "and" in the twelfth line and insert as follows: "all of said lands and all of the school lands in said Territory may be leased under such laws and regulations as may be hereafter prescribed by the legislature of said Territory; but until such legislative action the governor, secretary of state, and superintendent of public instruction shall constitute a board for the leasing of said lands, under the rules and regulations heretofore prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, for the respective purposes for which the said reservations were made, except that it shall not be necessary to submit said leases to the Secretary of the Interior for his approval, and all necessary expenses and costs incurred in the leasing, management, and protection of said lands and leases may be paid out of the proceeds derived from such leases."

I have the honor to state that the proposed amendment meets my approval.

The Commissioner of the Land Office, in his report for 1893, recommended that the requirement to submit leases of school lands to the Secretary of the Interior should be dispensed with. The experience of the Department has been that these leases must be approved almost exclusively upon the recommendation of the Territorial officers. This being true, it is simply a waste of time and additional work, without any benefit, to require them to submit these leases to the Department.

I inclose copy of said bill and proposed amendment.

Respectfully,

S. W. LAMOREUX,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[House Report No. 251, Fifty-third Congress, second session.]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3610) to authorize the governor of Oklahoma Territory to lease certain lands, and for other purposes, have had the same under consideration, and report it back with the recommendation that it be laid upon the table and that the accompanying substitute therefor be passed.

The President in his proclamation opening the Cherokee Outlet reserved section 13 in each township, which had not been otherwise reserved or disposed of, for university, agricultural college, and normal school purposes, subject to the action of Congress; and also reserved section 33 in each township, which had not been otherwise reserved or disposed of, for public buildings. The proclamation as to these lands was as follows:

"Excepting also that section 13 in each township, which has not been otherwise reserved or disposed of, is hereby reserved for university, agricultural college, and normal school purposes, subject to the action of Congress; excepting also that section 33 in each township, which has not been otherwise reserved or disposed of, is hereby reserved for public buildings."

This bill will ratify the said reservations made by the President and authorize the leasing of the lands for a period of not exceeding three years for the purposes for which they were reserved.

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